

DATE: July 27, 2000

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS, (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-38)

Joe DeHerrera – KEWN-4  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

**Proposed Action:** McCoy Meadows Restoration Project

**Project No:** 1996-083-00

**Budget No:** F3948

**Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):**

1.3 Restoration of Channelized River and Stream Reaches

1.4 Pre-implementation Evaluation of Proposed Enhancements

1.5 Install Grande Control Structures and Check Dams

1.8 Bank Protection through Vegetation Management

1.9 Structural Bank Protection Using Bioengineering Methods

1.17 Rearing Habitat Enhancements

2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities

2.3 Creation of Wetlands to Provide Near-Channel Habitat and Store Water for Later Use

**Location:** 20 miles southwest of LaGrande, Oregon, near Starkey in Union County.

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).

**Description of the Proposed Action:** This project involves the construction of 8,600 linear feet of restoration stream channel, new bridge construction, abandonment of channelized stream channel, revegetation and stabilization activities on the privately-owned 2,500 acre McCoy Meadows Ranch. The ranch is located in the upper Grande Ronde subbasin and historically contained a large wetland meadow complex that has been extensively altered. Habitat restoration work began in 1995 with planning activities that resulted in a plan that was divided into several phases. Phase I was completed in 1999. Phase II will consist of the activities listed above, and will take place over the 2000-2002 timeframe.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Allen Childs of the CTUIR and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

Snake River chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and bull trout are the potentially affected listed threatened or endangered species in the vicinity of the project. BPA has determined that the 2000-2001 activities may affect, but would not adversely affect these listed species. We received concurrence on this finding from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on July 10, 2000 and from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on July 24, 2000. The activities planned for the year 2002 include dewatering the existing channelized McCoy Creek channel. BPA has determined that this activity may adversely affect the listed species due to the need to electroshock and trap fish from the channel to move them into the new channel. BPA has requested formal consultation with USFWS and NMFS on the 2002 actions. No trapping or electroshocking will be conducted prior to the completion of formal consultation on these activities with USFWS and NMFS.

From a literature and records search and on-site survey by the CTUIR, no known historical or archeological sites are located within the parcel. The State Historic Preservation Office has also been consulted. The CTUIR cultural resources staff will monitor ground-disturbing activities.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with Sections 7.6 and 7.7 of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and; 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Nancy H. Weintraub

Nancy H. Weintraub

Environmental Project Lead - KECN

CONCUR: /s/ Robert W. Beraud for

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 7/27/00

**Attachments:**

NEPA Compliance Checklist

cc: (w/attachment)

Allen Childs, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation